The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

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Cleveland Collection Featured in Ukiyo-e Exhibition

One of the most notable strengths of The Cleveland Museum of Art's distinguished holdings in Japanese art are the paintings, prints, and sculptures from the Kelvin Smith collection, the gift of Mrs. Smith in his memory. A founder, with his brothers, of the Lubrizol Corporation, which established facilities in Japan, Mr. Smith was first intrigued by the woodblock prints of Kiyoshi Saito, one of the major printmakers of 20th-century Japan; the Smith gift includes nearly the complete oeuvre of Saito.

From these prints, Kelvin Smith moved easily to paintings by 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-century masters of *ukiyo-e*. Rather than focus exclusively on prints, as most Western collectors of Japanese art have done, Mr. Smith recognized that prints were only part of the *ukiyo-e* artist's work. Paintings became one of his overriding interests and constitute the greatest distinction of this collection, which is perhaps unique in the United States in being almost equally divided between prints and paintings.

The combination of tradition and daring novelty that characterizes *ukiyo-e*--and the society that created it--appealed to Kelvin Smith's tastes. His admirable collection includes many images of legendary courtesans, which are now central to the Cleveland holdings. In the special exhibition, **Ukiyo-e: The Floating World Revisited**, are two of his paintings, Eishi's hanging scroll *Beauty in a Boat on the Sumida River* and Fujimaro's hanging scroll *Man Strolling with a Boy Carrying Flowering Branches*. Five prints from the Cleveland collection are also included in the exhibition.

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